

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to rise in great dismay and almost shocked disbelief at the bill that we are being asked to consider this week which provides funding for programs in the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education.

Most of the people who hold public office today, whether in local, State, or national capacities, have always made a very strong and vocal commitment to the importance of education, not just to the children that are here today but virtually for the future of this country. In order for us to be truly competitive in a world sense we have to be sure that the children of America are being given the fullest opportunity for education, for training, for career development, and certainly in meeting the changes that occur in our economy and in jobs throughout the Nation, we have to also be prepared to make sure that there are funds available for job retraining of workers who are displaced in a wide variety of industries, outcomes of such things as NAFTA and GATT, and simply the downsizing of our megacorporations.

So it is almost with a dismay and disbelief that I rise today to advise the people in the country about these massive cuts that are coming in the field of education. The budget that we are going to be asked to vote for this week cuts \$3.8 billion in education and about \$2.8 billion of this cut are going to affect the local schools directly. It is astounding that such a major cut would come from a field that everybody agrees is the most important responsibility of Government. But there you have it. Now, how do these cuts come into the budget category?

□ 1240

The first major cut is \$1.1 billion in title I, which is a special program that has been in existence since 1965.

I happen to have been here in the Congress in 1965, where the debate over 25 years finally came to fruition and the first federally financed Aid to Education was enacted. It was then called Public Law 8910; and that program has continued over the years. Although never fully funded, it has provided billions of dollars of assistance directly to our schools.

How is it determined what the schools are to get? It is targeted to economically and educationally disadvantaged children in our schools. In some instances, private schools are able to benefit by sending their children out to partake of the various programs that are located in the public schools.

We have a devastating impact. Our report shows that 1 million of our most disadvantaged children in our neediest schools that do not have the real property tax base or the financial wherewithal to pay for an adequate education are going to have these funds stripped away. I think this is the most egregious of all of the cuts that we are being asked to make this week.

Mr. Speaker, the other program which has had widespread support throughout the country is a program that we call Head Start. Time and again, people have stood on the well of this floor, Presidents have announced that we must achieve full funding of Head Start.

It takes into consideration the need to prepare disadvantaged children, particularly, at age 4 and 5 years of age to make it possible for them when they enter the public schools in first grade that they can achieve at a far more adequate and rapid pace.

This is a program that has bipartisan support and yet I am dismayed to report that the Committee on Appropriations cut Head Start by \$137 million, which means 45,000 to 50,000 children who are currently in the program will not be able to participate any longer. What a tragedy for these youngsters.

What makes up an adequate educational system in America? What produces quality education? It is not money in itself, it is the quality of the teachers, and so one of the important areas that we have funded in the past is teacher education, and that program is being totally eliminated, that is known as the Eisenhower Professional Development Program for teachers. I see that my time is up, and I will be back again on the floor.

EDUCATION CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. MARTINEZ] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise the same as Mrs. MINK in vehement opposition to the new majority's Labor, HHS, and Education appropriation bill. It is a bill that is so bad that we should not even try to amend it, even if we could, because I do not believe there are any amendments that could improve it, so let it come to the floor just the way it is and show the American people what the new majority is really all about.

Some have come to this floor and said that the new majority are mean spirited. Mr. Speaker, this goes beyond mean spirited. The Labor HHS bill is a cold-blooded attack on the American dream.

It is especially damaging for those at the very bottom of the ladder. The cuts in education are at the very heart of the American dream. Education has always been a plus, something to laud, in America. Without education, would we have had the major technical advancements that we have known? That came from people that were well educated in this country? I doubt it.

I do not believe even in the past people like George Washington Carver, who gave us more than just the development of so many things from the peanut, would have had the advantages that he did later in his life after he received the formal education.

Mr. Speaker, education, to me, has been at the heart of every advancement

of our Great Society. The new majority cuts and slashes. Their cut-and-slash tactics cut everything. They cut education, a second chance for people. They say they want everyone to speak English. Where do they think adults are going to learn English? They are going to learn in school.

They are slashing a program so that adults have to wait in line to get into the ESL classes. Community-based organizations, which take up much of the slack, are already short of funds to provide services, and the bill is cutting their aid even further.

Even though the Federal Government contributes only a small percentage of the education money that is spent in this country, they want to take that away.

With this legislation, Congress is ignoring the national leadership role that it has. When local school boards all over the country are having hard times paying for their schools, this bill is denying the very little help we do give. The no-tax phobia has school districts around the country desperate for funds. If we do not help, no one will.

Initiatives like California's proposition 13 and the two-thirds requirement for any new increase in funds for schools handcuff the ability of communities to implement a bond measure to raise taxes for those needs that they believe are priorities like schools.

Mr. Speaker, I have never been offended by taxes as long as the revenue is spent well.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we must grow up and the new majority must grow up and face the responsibility for a sensible society. Without taxes, there would be no local law enforcement, no local fire safety, no local sewage treatment, no health and safety protections. Taxes are a part of a civilized society.

If we think we have it bad, we ought to look at some of our neighboring countries. Some nations have more onerous taxes than we will ever have, but they do not have the advancements in technology that we do.

Taxes are a sacrifice made to investment in our country.

We hear our colleagues every day come to this floor and say, we have to run Congress like a business. I was in business for many years, but I got into politics and I saw other businesses around me fail because they would not make the sacrifice that we need to make to make an investment in our business. Well, we are now giving a tax break to the rich at the expense of an investment in the programs for the poor of our country.

The Labor, HHS, education bill is a disinvestment in the future of the children of this Nation that is irrational and unfair. Mr. Speaker, what has happened to the promise of a brighter tomorrow, a kinder and gentler America that we heard about not so long ago, a future for our children that people, and especially politicians, love to make in speeches?